

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed January 25, 2005 (the "Office Action"). In order to advance prosecution of this case, Applicants amend Claims 3, 5, 8, 10, 13-14, 18-22, 25-26, 28-31 and 35-40 and cancel Claims 1-2, 4, 12, 17, 23-24, 27 and 32-34 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication by the Examiner that Claims 3, 5-7, 8-11, 13-16, 18-22, 25-26, 28-31 and 35-36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended Claims 3, 5, 8, 10, 13-14, 18-22, 25-26, 28-31 and 35-40 such that each of Claims 3, 5-7, 8-11, 13-16, 18-22, 25-26, 28-31 and 35-36 is either in independent form or depends from a claim whose subject matter has been indicated as allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to Claims 3, 5-7, 8-11, 13-16, 18-22, 25-26, 28-31 and 35-36 be withdrawn.

Claims 37-40

Applicants note that the Office Action did not address Claims 37-40. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 37-40 are allowable because each depends from Claim 35 which includes subject matter previously indicated as allowable. *See* Office Action, page 4. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to Claims 37-40 be withdrawn.

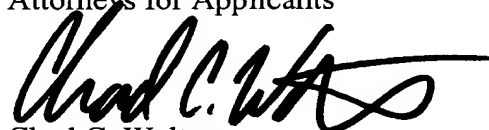
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

A check in the amount of \$2,200.00 is enclosed to cover the fee for eleven additional independent claims and a check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed to cover the cost of the Information Disclosure Statement filing fee. No other fees are believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any amount required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
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